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Area Wage Survey
Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles, TX-LA
May 1990

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
June 1990

This summary presents results of a May 1990 survey of occupational wages in the Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles Metropolitan Statistical Areas, which consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, TX; and Calcasieu Parish, LA. This is 1 of over 110 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys annually or every other year at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 90 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 102 establishments employing 31,206 workers was selected to represent 339 establishments employing 58,636 workers in the area. Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.)

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles, TX-LA, May 1990

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (in dollars)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.80 and under 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 – 17.00	17.00 – 18.00	18.00 – 19.00	19.00 – 20.00	20.00 and over
Secretaries	289	13.81	14.42	10.55–16.66	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	6	20	7	22	18	17	13	29	29	31	31	27	28	2	4
Secretaries I	54	11.75	13.11	8.09–15.03	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	5	7	3	3	1	1	2	8	5	8	5	1	–	–	–
Secretaries II	57	12.41	12.52	10.55–13.83	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	3	13	8	5	14	7	1	–	1	2	–	–
Secretaries III	157	14.70	15.73	11.90–17.45	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	12	2	16	2	8	4	6	15	21	24	21	24	2	–
Secretaries IV	18	15.30	15.92	12.36–17.89	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	–	–
Stenographers	50	10.98	11.34	11.23–11.34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	4	5	37	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stenographers I	37	10.92	11.34	10.42–11.34	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	3	5	27	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators	54	8.08	6.79	6.00–11.34	–	–	2	1	4	16	5	9	1	2	–	–	–	5	2	2	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators I	40	6.65	6.08	6.00– 7.12	–	–	2	1	4	16	5	8	1	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Key entry operators II	14	12.15	12.27	– –	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	5	–	2	5	–	–	–	–	–	–
Switchboard operators	32	7.95	7.40	3.85–10.39	9	2	–	–	1	3	–	1	1	–	1	–	9	–	1	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators	94	10.06	8.78	7.22–12.92	–	–	1	3	6	4	2	20	1	6	6	7	3	5	7	2	8	4	5	4	–	–	–
Computer operators I	15	5.93	5.87	5.48– 6.00	–	–	1	3	6	3	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Computer operators II	55	9.90	8.15	7.22–12.35	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	20	1	5	1	4	3	2	6	1	7	1	–	2	–	–	–
Computer operators III	24	13.00	13.24	9.10–16.65	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	3	–	3	1	1	1	3	5	2	–	–	–
Drafters:																											
Drafters II	48	9.23	8.50	7.70–11.34	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	8	–	12	4	–	18	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Drafters IV	58	14.96	15.78	12.50–15.78	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	6	3	3	23	–	3	10	–	–
Electronics technicians	366	16.94	16.80	16.17–17.79	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	4	18	46	130	111	18	20	15
Electronics technicians III	141	17.72	17.50	16.68–17.79	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17	32	57	–	20	*15
Maintenance carpenters	126	16.17	16.49	15.72–16.50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	58	64	4	–	–	–
Maintenance electricians	664	15.67	16.21	15.78–16.68	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	22	1	42	42	3	184	338	32	–	–	–
Maintenance painters	59	16.17	16.25	15.91–16.67	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	23	33	2	–	–	–
Maintenance machinists	478	15.52	16.49	13.60–16.57	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	156	–	24	290	6	–	–	–
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	1,085	15.47	15.97	15.78–16.35	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	97	5	18	48	3	419	470	22	–	–	–
Maintenance pipefitters	615	16.32	16.49	15.97–16.67	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	181	394	40	–	–	–
Motor vehicle mechanics	130	13.94	15.07	10.99–16.25	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	38	3	3	–	1	46	35	–	–	–	–
General maintenance workers	120	8.07	7.50	6.25– 9.44	–	8	–	7	4	18	5	16	13	5	1	23	5	2	3	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–
Stationary engineers	95	16.95	16.86	16.85–17.26	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	51	37	–	–	–
Truckdrivers	531	10.10	8.80	5.65–15.21	–	–	20	100	31	28	1	8	2	34	86	3	3	17	25	12	–	41	120	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, medium truck	232	12.06	15.21	5.65–16.27	–	–	–	40	25	6	1	6	–	–	6	–	–	–	18	–	–	24	106	–	–	–	–
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	37	11.69	11.30	9.78–13.33	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	–	5	1	–	17	–	2	–	1	7	–	–	–	–
Shipping packers	17	7.38	6.27	6.27– 8.55	–	–	–	–	2	7	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forklift operators	163	10.81	9.41	8.33–13.90	–	–	3	4	–	4	2	4	14	10	30	14	–	–	–	58	16	4	–	–	–	–	–
Guards	678	5.65	4.25	3.80– 5.95	199	151	69	40	61	8	33	39	5	6	–	2	4	1	–	21	19	10	4	4	–	–	–
Guards I	678	5.65	4.25	3.80– 5.95	199	151	69	40	61	8	33	39	5	6	–	2	4	1	–	21	19	10	4	4	–	–	–
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	630	4.30	3.80	3.80– 4.00	445	82	41	12	14	–	14	–	4	–	–	1	–	–	2	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Pay increases—but not bonuses—under cost-of-living allowance clauses and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more than this rate and one-half receive the same as or less than this rate. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate. Middle ranges are not provided when fewer than 15 workers are reported.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[3] Workers were distributed as follows: 9 at 20.00 to 21.00; 4 at 21.00 to 22.00; and 2 at 23.00 to 24.00.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles, TX-LA,[1] May 1990

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	339	102	58,636	100	31,206
Manufacturing	50	62	29	24,813	42	17,221
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	277	73	33,823	58	13,985

[1] The Beaumont-Port Arthur and Lake Charles Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through October 1984, consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, TX; and Calcasieu Parish, LA. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis for comparison with other statistical series to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The *Standard Industrial Classification Manual* was used in classifying establishments by industry. All government operations are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets (within a metropolitan area or nonmetropolitan county) of nonmanufacturing companies are considered as one establishment when located within the same industry division.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; personal services; business services; automotive repair services and garages; motion pictures; membership organizations (excluding religious organizations); and miscellaneous services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; and some services (notably educational institutions and medical services).

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